TOWN COUNCIL

Town of Trumbull

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TOWN HALL Trumbull TELEPHONE (203) 452-5005



LEGISLATION & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MINUTES April 26, 2010

Chairman Suzanne Testani called the Legislation & Administration Committee meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. All present joined in a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance

The clerk call the roll and recorded as follows:

<u>Present:</u> Kristy Waizenegger, Mark Altieri, Michael Rappa and Jeff Jenkins (arrived at 7:30 p.m.).

Absent: Chad Ciocci

Also Present: Mr. Dan Nelson, Chief of Staff, Mr. Carl Massaro, Jr., Town Council Chairman, Councilman Tony Scinto and Mr. DeVestern, Tax Assessor.

1. RESOLUTION TC 23-64: Moved by Mr. Rappa, seconded by Ms. Waizenegger.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Timothy M. Herbst, First Selectman, be and is hereby authorized to sign an agreement entitled:

"Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Trumbull for the Construction, Inspection, and Maintenance of the Pavement Rehabilitation and Resurfacing of Whitney Avenue utilizing Federal Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5 (hereinafter "Act")."

Mr. Nelson stated that this resolution had come before the Town Council at the February 1, 2010 meeting, in the interim a new Public Works Director has been appointed. Mr. Douglas Grant from the State of CT had notified the town that since it is a new contract with new signatories and the fact that the work will be performed this year; the state would prefer the resolution reflect the signature of the First Selectman and the new Public Works Director, Mr. John Marsillio. The state has requested since there is a 30- day window in which it will be submitted

and it is federal money, that a new resolution be adopted reflecting both signatures. These funds represent funds completely separate from LOCIP. Whitney Avenue was chosen due to the requirement that the road had to be a connecting thoroughfare between state roads. The project is in the process of receiving bids for contractors and materials. The paving aspect of the project is expected to begin in July – August 2010.

By unanimous consent the L&A Committee approved to recommend emergency legislation on this resolution.

VOTE: Motion to recommend carried unanimously 4-0.

2. RESOLUTION TC23-65: Moved by Ms. Waizenegger, seconded by Mr. Altieri.

BE IT RESOLVED, WHEREAS, pursuant to CGS Sec. 4-66g, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Trumbull make an application to the State for \$82,000 in order to undertake the Renovation and Expansion of the Trumbull Animal Shelter and to execute an Assistance Agreement

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Trumbull Town Council

- 1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by CGS Section 4-66g for STEAP.
- 2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by Town of Trumbull in an amount not to exceed \$82,000 is hereby approved and that First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Trumbull.

Mr. Nelson stated that this resolution originally referenced the "*Urban Act*" grant; the town had been notified by the state that the resolution should reference the "CGS Section 4-66g for STEAP" grant. STEAP stands for Small Town Economic Assistance Program. This is the only change the state has required to date. This resolution does not require Emergency legislation.

VOTE: Motion to recommend carried unanimously 4-0.

3. RESOLUTION TC23-53: Moved by Mr. Altieri, seconded by Ms. Waizenegger.

BE IT RESOLVED, That pursuant to Public Act 09-60, the Town of Trumbull Tax Assessor shall not be required to effect a revaluation of real property prior to the 2011 assessment year.

Mr. DeVestern explained that new legislation has been passed which allows towns to postpone the 2011 revaluation one year. Mr. Massaro stated there is a state statute allowing for the postponement; there are two ways to go about the postponement. This resolution reflects the easier of the two ways. Mr. DeVestern stated he has been doing revaluation work since 1980; it is always easier and better to do a revaluation when the economy is stronger. It would be difficult to predict what would happen in a year and half, some conditions could improve. The postponement benefits the taxpayers by keeping the mill rate down. When a revaluation is done during a down economy there is less activity to base it on and recommends postponing the revaluation. The town will go out to bid for a company to handle the revaluation. Mr. DeVestern stated at this time residential and commercial is down, there has been a lack of market activity to base a revaluation on, in a year, if the economy improves there would be more data available.

VOTE: Motion to recommend carried 3-1 (Against: Altieri)

4. RESOLUTION TC23-66: Moved by Mr. Rappa, seconded by Mr. Altieri.

BE IT RESOLVED, That a Technology Advisory Committee is hereby established to make recommendations to the Town Council and the First Selectman in regards to the network/technology/website infrastructure of the Town of Trumbull. Said committee shall report directly to the Town Council and shall be comprised of the following:

- 1) Four (4) members of the Town Council (not more than two (2) from the same political party).
- 2) Two (2) members which shall be appointed by the First Selectman. Said members shall be residents of the Town of Trumbull.
- 3) A Town Technology Department representative; who shall appear at meetings whenever requested by the committee chairman.
- 4) The Town webmaster; who shall appear at meetings whenever requested by the committee chairman.

Said committee shall meet at least once a month and shall report its findings to the Town Council on a monthly basis. All power to act on the recommendations from said committee shall be vested with the Trumbull Town Council, unless otherwise prohibited by law or the Town Charter.

Mr. Scinto stated that he and Mr. Pescatore, Jr. had spoken with the administration and the Town Hall Technology department personnel. Mr. Nelson stated that the Town Hall Technology Department in the past has have made recommendations on how to move forward with improvements of the town's

technology needs and have indicated that there were improvements needed in the town's infrastructure but it had not been acted on. During the budget process, the town's licensing needs were identified. It would be in the best interest of the town to form a Technology Advisory Committee to develop steps to modernize the town hall. Mr. Scinto noted that there has not been a Technology Director for several years, which has halted any of the efforts made.

(Mr. Jenkins arrived at 7:30 p.m.)

Mr. Nelson spoke in favor of updating the town's network and making capital improvements to it. Ms. Waizenengeer spoke in favor of a gap analysis and cautioned not to jump to solutions; this is a very complicated project. Mr. Nelson stated significant changes are needed to improve the town's network, bandwidth, communications, and the development of wan (wide area network) to connect town hall to the police and other departments in town as they should be.

Mr. Altieri spoke against the need for the committee and the purpose of the resolution, questioning why there is not a committee for all departments in town.

Mr. Scinto stated the committee is to bring people with expertise together to help

The committee discussed the make-up of the proposed advisory committee. Mr. Scinto stated that the project would be broken down into pieces; transport, hardware, web, and e-mail issues. The technology department personnel have a plan formulated to start with.

Ms. Testani stated that the current system is antiquated and does need attention almost immediately speaking in favor of using a group of people with certain skill sets.

Mr. Rappa spoke in favor of amending the make-up of the advisory committee.

Mr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Rappa to amend Resolution TC23-66 to read as, "BE IT RESOLVED, That a Technology Advisory Committee is hereby established to investigate the current status of the Town infrastructure at present and present a model of what it should look like at 01-01-11 and budget costs to achieve the model. This committee shall make recommendations to the Town Council and the First Selectman with regards to network and the future model at the September Town Council 2010 meeting.

VOTE: Motion to amend carried unanimously 5-0

the town and would like to get everybody involved.

The Committee discussed the need to amend the resolution to reflect a different make-up of membership. Ms. Waizenegger stated that more time is necessary to determine what is "blue sky expectations", "what the town could live with" and "what would be bare bones", these options could then be brought to the town council. Mr. Nelson explained that the previous advisory committee had discussed the possibility of merging the town with the BoE, explaining that the town is not ready for such a merge since the town's infrastructure is not on same level as the BoE's.

Mr. Altieri stated that improvements have been brought before the council before, at a cost of approximately \$110,000 and they were not approved. The committee agreed more time is necessary for this resolution.

Mr. Altieri moved, seconded by Mr. Rappa to hold Resolution TC-66 in committee.

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

5. RESOLUTION TC: 23-67: BE IT RESOLVED, That the office of the First Selectman of the Town of Trumbull, or its designee is hereby required to disseminate the current language contained in the Trumbull Municipal Code, Chapter 14, Section 14-11 within a letter or other suitable printed copy to each household within the Town of Trumbull via USPS. The aforementioned document shall bee included within another town-wide mailing and shall be sent out no later than July 31st of each year.

The Chair stated Resolution TC23-67 has been postponed.

There being no further business to discuss, upon motion made by Mr. Altieri, seconded by Mr. Rappa the Legislation and Administration Committee adjourned at 8:03 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret D. Mastroni, Council Clerk.